

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/830,118

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL

Examiner

Art Unit

Devin Hanan

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment 1/27/2006.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 5-26.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/27/2006

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/3/06

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Stephen Catlin (No. 36,101) on March 3, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 1, line 9, --wherein the first and second damping elements are in frictional engagement with one another or an interposed third damping element-- has been inserted after "their periphery".

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled.

In claim 9, line 2, "4" has been changed to --1--.

In claim 11, line 2, "4" has been changed to --1--.

In claim 15, line 1, "4" has been changed to --1--.

In claim 17, line 1, "4" has been changed to --1--.

In claim 25, line 7, --ceramic-- has been inserted after "hard".

The above change to Claim 1 has been made to incorporate allowable subject matter from claims 2 and 3 into the independent claim. The above cancellation of claims 3 and 4 are due to their inclusion into independent claim 1. The above change to Claims 9, 11, 15, 17 have been made to correct claim dependency after the cancellation of claim 4. The above change to claim 25 has been made to further define over the prior art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Amendments, filed 1/27/2006, and the above examiner's amendment with respect to the damped aerofoil structure (page 7 paragraphs 2 and 5) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-2 and 5-26 have been withdrawn.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance"

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devin Hanan whose telephone number is 571-272-6089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on 571-272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Devin Hanan
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3745


EDWARD K. LOOK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700
3/6/06